

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

December 2024

2024 in Revue from the Chair

Merry Christmas and Happy New year, this is our final newsletter for 2024. Thanks to everyone who has supported the Manly Community Forum and participated in our meetings over 2024. Thanks to the teams who have delivered the newsletters and the community members who have attended the meetings. Congratulations to Councillors Bingham, Harvey and Gratton who were elected to Council in September this year to represent the Manly Ward for the next four years. Manly Community Forum is also supported by the Northern Beaches Council which provides access to senior staff who have been generous with their time and advice in responding to our many requests for action and information.

The MCF is an active community group which has been advocating on the many issues that arise in the Manly and Eastern Hill area. Over the past 12 months we have seen the completion of the toilets at Little Manly Point Park, the repair of the sink hole at the point and we await a decision on the future of the bridge there. The Forum has had regular meetings with staff regarding improvements to Darley Rd which includes reducing and managing the speed of vehicles down this road as well as fixing the mess left by Ausgrid. Council has reinstated the paving and painted the heritage bollards at the Victoria Pde roundabout but we hope to see some more of the suggestions made by the group come to fruition in the early half of 2025.

Over on the Fairy Bower side it seems the new toilet block ran over budget to the extent that nothing else can be done at Shelly or along Marine Parade. Maybe with the rate rise funds will become available to improve the landscaping in the area, replace the tourist info maps and maintain the quality of the footpath along Marine Parade. Fisheries have done a good job replacing some for the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve fish interpretive signs.

In March we saw the Council install a beautiful fence and gate at the top of the steps at the start of the Manly to Spit path and in September we saw Council repair the wooden walkway around the Pavillion and remove the fence and gate.

National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Catholic Church are continuing to work on on a solution that will see the heritage stone wall adjacent to Collins Flat being repaired. There are hopes it will be rebuilt next year.

Ongoing advocacy by the Manly Community saw the State Government agree to rezone the former Manly Hospital in June to progress the plan to reuse the old hospital and grounds as a Health and Wellbeing precinct. The Youth Hospice opened and is now operating with acclaim.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 16 DEC 2024

6.30 AT LITTLE MANLY BEACH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 17 February 2025

7PM MANLY YACHT CLUB

editor: Cathy Griffin

secretary@manlycommunityforum.com

Months passed as the Council discussed shifting the deck chairs around on the Corso with its Place Plan, which was eventually voted on and supported, but don't expect any implementation of the 'Plan' for another few years. Maybe Council will find a better use for the former Manly Town Hall that won't drain the budget since Council can't afford to turn it into an entertainment venue.

In August Council published concept plans for the rebuilding of the Manly Lifesaving Club. These concept plans showed that the Council had listened to the community and decided not to build a separate amenity block in the middle of the promenade, but now controversially, instead extend the existing building footprint north into the public open space. There was no more consultation, but the community certainly let Council know that this was not acceptable. Noone disputes the need to rebuild the Manly Life Saving Club, but the general feeling is that it should remain within the current footprint. The DA is now delayed till early 2025.

The Little Manly Masterplan was finalised in October with the demolition of Number 40 Stuart St and the area landscaped.

We have had a busy year and we expect 2025 to be as busy as we follow up on better management of e bikes and increased summer crowds after midnight as Felons has increased its capacity by thousands,

We will continue to advocate for Shelly Beach and Marine Parade as well as the Darley Road Gateway to North Head project and keep a watching brief on the plans for the Manly Life Saving Club. North Steyne Surf Club also has plans for extensions and refurbishments, but no funding is available.

Cathy Griffin

Chair

secretary@manlycommunityforum.com

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 17 FEB 25 AT 7PM AT THE MANLY YACHT CLUB

Digital Parking permits coming in 2026

Council has recently called for tenders for a Digital Parking Permit system. This proposal intends to introduce a common digital parking system of permits across the Northern Beaches. This is a key operational project in the Delivery Program 2024-2028. All existing parking schemes will be transitioned from physical permits to digital, including the Manly Resident Parking Schemes. However, because of the complexity of existing parking permit schemes, which are currently issued through six different systems, the rollout of the digital parking permit system will be staged. The staged rollout is planned to commence from late 2025 starting with the smaller parking permit schemes, before progressing to the larger parking permit schemes. Several administrative arrangements such as additional paid permits, car registration transfers etc are still being finalised. Privacy and data security are considered a priority as part of the Council's standard ICT terms and conditions in any of the Council's software procurement process. Councillors will be briefed in early 2025 and it is expected that a supplier will be confirmed in the final quarter of 2024/25. System development will then commence, along with communication with existing permit holder groups.

NBC Workforce management

Table 2 - Establishment FTE Approved Positions (Northern Beaches Council 2016 – 2025)

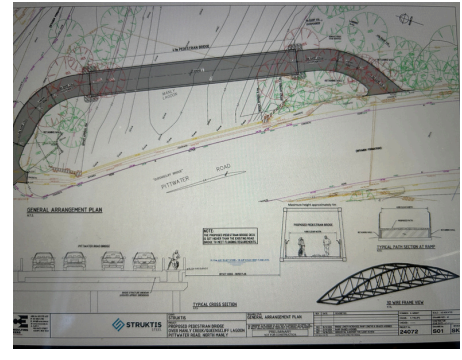
Full-time Equivalent Positions (FTE) by Service	2016	2024/25	No. Change	% Change
Environment and Sustainability Services	83	84	1	2%
Waste and Cleansing Services	88	82	-5	-6%
Strategic Land Use Planning	32	34	3	8%
Development Assessment	60	48	-12	-21%
Environmental Compliance	103	100	-3	-3%
Parks and Recreation Services	141	146	5	4%
Children Services	118	123	5	4%
Community, Arts and Culture Services	49	58	9	19%
Library Services	79	80	0	0%
Transport, Traffic and Active Travel Services	126	127	1	1%
Economic Development, Events and Engagement Services	40	52	12	31%
Property and Facilities Services	98	95	-3	-3%
Governance and Risk Services	40	23	-17	-42%
Customer Service	41	40	-1	-2%
Corporate Support Services	218	194	-24	-11%
Totals	1,315	1,287	-28	-2%

* Excludes temporary core operating system replacement project team (15 FTE)
* Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number

Northern Beaches Council FTE Data 2016 to 2025, excludes Kimbriki, Council's Core Operating Replacement Project and budgeted vacant and seasonal positions.

In a report to Councillor this month Council states that it will continue to focus on workforce efficiency in the same manner that it has to date. Council states it will review and where feasible improve its organisational design to ensure it is cost effective and has an optimal structure to deliver efficient community services and infrastructure in line with the Community Strategic Plan. It is anticipated that through natural employee attrition, innovation, and process improvements, in addition to the rationalisation of discretionary services, the full time effective (FTE) workforce may be reduced over 3 years at an estimated annual savings of \$1.7 million dollars (based on an average employee cost of \$100,000) – pending any new or increased services that Council may determine to deliver.

Pittwater Road Manly Lagoon pedestrian and cycle bridge



In 2019, the Council's Move Northern Beaches Transport Strategy identified the need to could encourage active travel to help break the reliance on cars as the main way we travel across the Northern Beaches. Over many years pedestrians and cyclists have contacted Council regarding safety concerns about the narrow width of the footpath on the bridge across Queenscliff Lagoon. So as this bridge is part of a well-used shared path network leading to many destinations and often results in conflict between users' Council decided to develop a detailed design the remedy the problem. To secure grant funding Council consulted widely and designed a separate pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Manly Lagoon at Queenscliff. Council was also required to complete a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to ensure all measures are taken not to damage and to protect the immediate local aquatic and adjacent environment.

Council has now secured a \$3.95m grant from Transport for NSW for this project which is again open for consultation on the Your Say Page. This new 4 metre wide bridge will offer a safe path away from the busy Pittwater Road, connecting Aitken Avenue and Hinkler Park, along the regional shared-user path between Brookvale and Manly. A new raised pedestrian crossing at Aitken Avenue and energy efficient lighting will also be included in the upgrade.

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Hardcopy or not?

The Manly Community holds monthly in person meetings the Manly Yacht Club. We know 7.30 on the 3rd Monday of the month doesn't suite everyone, but we don't have the ability or wherewithal the stream the meetings live. If anyone in the community is willing and able to volunteer their time and know-how to achieve this, it would be appreciated us and many in the community.

In the meantime, we have had discussions about all our methods of communication. We have a newsletter which has a print run of 4000, a website, and the newsletter is also sent out electronically to an e-list of about 1500. Manly of the emails seem a bit dodgy with many being the old fashioned 'bigpond.com' type which generally has limits on receiving large files.

Our Facebook page is well patronised, but we don't post on Instagram.

Our printed newsletter is delivered by a team of volunteers just before the meetings, and we always welcome new people willing to deliver in their street or anywhere around the block.

The Manly Community Forum is funded by the loyal advertisers in the Newsletter, and this pays for the printing and other small running costs such as online access and subscriptions.

Water Rates rise - how much?

IPART is in the process of considering an increase in residential Water Rates to increase the funding for Sydney Water infrastructure into the future.

IPART is reviewing costs and prices for water and water-related services, including the provision of water, wastewater, stormwater and other services provided by Sydney Water. Other Water Service providers costs and pricing, including Hunter Water, WaterNSW and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC), are also under consideration.

The prices IPART sets in this review will apply from 1 July 2025 for 5 years. Sydney Water has submitted a pricing proposal, a total bill increases of 18% next year then 7% in following years, not including inflation.

Council Rates rise - how much?

Before making an application to IPART the NSW government Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, Council is required to engage with the community on the potential options for a Special Rate Variation or rate increase above the annual Rate Peg which is based on the CPI.

Ratepayers received a 2 page letter explaining the four options. But there was no mention of future prudent Budget Management, instead Council has blamed ageing assets and the heavy costs of natural disasters, the COVID pandemic and 'cost shifting' as well as generally the rising cost of everything.

Staff will report to a Council meeting this month on how it intends a to contain costs and explore other revenue streams, but insists that a rate increase is necessary to ensure the Financial sustainability of the NBC into the future.

Options proposed are

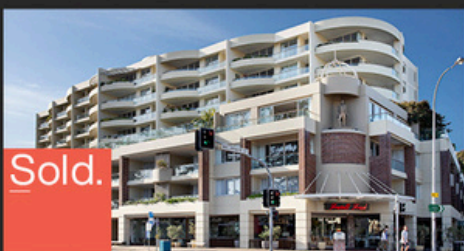
- Option 1 Reduce services - Rate peg 3.8% (2025/26) increase only
- Option 2 Maintain services - Rate peg + 6% pa over 3 years
- Option 3 Improve services - Rate peg + 8.3% pa over 2 years and 8.4% in year 3
- Option 4 Increase services - Rate peg + 10% pa over 3 years.

Council is currently seeking feedback on which option is most acceptable to ratepayers on the Council Your Say page.

IPART will also seek submissions on the rate rise if and when it proceeds to IPART for consideration.



2/75 Stuart Street Manly - \$3,250,000



308/54 West Esplanade Manly - \$4,000,000

Thinking of Selling?

Jake and his team have been having great success in selling properties not just in Manly but across the lower half of the Northern Beaches. We sell properties in all price ranges from entry level apartments to prestige homes.

If you are thinking of selling or would like an appraisal of your property, please give Jake a call on 0414 612 546.



Jake Rowe

jakerowe@theagency.com.au

0414 612 546

Shop 1, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

Experience sells



Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Brickbat** to Council for their so called consultation on the impending increase to rates. Ratepayers be like Goldilocks and run away after reading about the which of the three rate rises to chose.
- **Bouquet** to Council for repainting the heritage 1988 Bi Centenary bollards around the roundabout at Victoria Pde and Darley Rd. It is the little things that count :)
- **Brickbat** to Council for persistently letting down people with disabilities. This disabled parking spot at the rear of the MLSC is rendered useless because of the grade and gutter as it doesn't allow for a wheel chair to be lowered from the rear of any van fitted with a wheelchair ramp. No improvement is expected when the Manly Life Saving Club is rebuilt.
- **Bouquet** to Council for removing the tape holding the outdoor shower at South Steyne together and repairing it.
- **Brickbat** to the Council street sweeper that insists on sweeping only the center of the roads.
- **Bouquet** to Felons for installing the Christmas tree that lights up at the Wharf. Local jury still out on the other innovations on the wharf.

Manly Community Forum
End of the year
and
Christmas celebration
16 December 2024
6.30pm
Little Manly Beach
Nibbles will be provided
BYO Drinks and Food



Winner of the Best Café Dining & Best Casual Dining of the Year in NSW for 2024 at the Restaurant and Catering NSW Awards!

LITTLE MANLY, LITTLE STRESS.

RIPPLES

rippleslittlemanly.com.au • On the beach, Stuart Street Manly • @rippleslittlemanly



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